

PRINCIPLES OF PROSPERITY

ABC - Lesson 39

Biblical prosperity is four - fold. It includes physical, social, spiritual and mental well - being.

Physical well - being	physical health and wealth.
Social well - being	having the favour of man.
Spiritual well - being	having the favour of God.
Mental well - being	healthy mind, emotion and will.

EXAMPLES: -

1.1 ABRAHAM

Genesis 13:2

Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.

1.2 ISAAC

Genesis 26:12-14

12 Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the LORD blessed him. 13 The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous; 14 for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants. So the Philistines envied him. (NKJ)

1.3 JACOB

Genesis 32:5

5 "I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, and male and female servants; and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find favor in your sight."

1.4 JESUS

Jesus was prosperous. He lacked nothing as a Spirit-filled man.

Luke 2:52

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

(2) Prosperity is in the will of God.

3 John 1:2

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

(3) Prosperity comes from God. He is called EL SHADDAI (The All Sufficient One) and JEHOVAH JIREH (The Lord My Provider).

THE FOLLOWING TERMS ARE USED TO DENOTE PROSPERITY: -

GOOD GIFT

James 1:17

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. (NKJ)

PROMOTION

Ps 75:6-7

6 For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.
7 But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Ps 84:7

They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion.
(NKJ)

INCREASE

Ps 115:14

May the LORD give you increase more and more, you and your children. (NKJ)

GLORY TO GLORY

2 Cor 3:18

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. (NKJ)

BLESSING

See Deut 28

WEALTH

Deut 8:18

"And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day." (NKJ)

ALL THINGS THAT PERTAIN TO LIFE & GODLINESS

2Pet 1:3

as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through

the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue. (NKJ)

EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING

Eph 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, (NKJ)

ABUNDANT LIFE

John 10:10

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." (NKJ)

God takes pleasure in the prosperity of His servants.

Ps 35:27

27 Let them shout for joy and be glad, who favor my righteous cause; and let them say continually, "Let the LORD be magnified, who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant." (NKJ)

It is scriptural to pray for prosperity.

Ps 118:25

Save now, I beseech thee, O LORD: O LORD, I beseech thee, send now prosperity. (KJV)

John 14:14

"If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." (NKJ)

The purpose of prosperity.

2 Cor 9:8

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having

all that you need, you will abound in every good work. (NIV)

KEYS TO PROSPERITY

MNEMONIC - "PROSPERITY"

SOME OF THE KEYS TO PROSPERITY ARE LISTED BELOW: -

P PRESENCE OF GOD

R RIGHTEOUSNESS

O OBEDIENCE

S SOWING

P PRIORITIZING THE KINGDOM OF GOD
E ENJOY THE WORD OF GOD
R RESPECT THE SERVANTS OF GOD
I INDUSTRY
T TRUSTING GOD (FAITH)
Y YIELDING TO THE SPIRIT

AMPLIFICATION

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Ps 16:11

You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (NKJ)

EXAMPLES: -

1. JOSEPH

Joseph prospered because God was with him.

Gen 39:2-3

2 The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. 3 And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand. (NKJ)

2. HEZEKIAH

Hezekiah prospered because God was with Him.

II Ki 18:7

The LORD was with him; he prospered wherever he went... (NKJ)

3. DAVID

David prospered because God was with him.

2Sam 5:10

So David went on and became great, and the LORD God of hosts was with him. (NKJ)

Prosperity is the consequence of God's "MANIFEST PRESENCE" in your life. Some principles to obtaining God's "MANIFEST PRESENCE" are: -

- 1 Prayer
 - 2 Praise
 - 3 Obedience
 - 4 Repentance
 - 5 Unity
 - 6 Sacrifice
 - 7 Integrity
- Fellowship in the Name of the Lord

4. OBED-EDOM

2Sam. 6:2-12

During the transit of the Ark (A type of presence of God) from Gibeah to Zion, Uzzah, a levite (levites were forbidden by Gods law to touch the Ark) touched the Ark to steady it. God struck Him dead. Amidst this atmosphere of fear Obed-Edom agreed to take the Ark into his house. The result is seen in 2Sam. 6:11-12.

2Sam 6:11-12

11 The Ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite three months. And the LORD blessed Obed-Edom and all his household.12 Now it was told King David, saying, "The LORD has blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that belongs to him, because of the Ark of God." So David went and brought up the Ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with gladness. (NKJ)

Obed-Edom was a Philistine. He was not a physical descendant of Abraham. He accepted the Ark into his house when others feared.

The consequence: God blessed everything that belonged to Obed-Edom.

We have a better covenant with better promises. Heb.8: 6.

According to 1Cor. 6:19, your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost i.e. your body is the house of God.

If you have not accepted Jesus into your house you will not experience the four-fold prosperity of God.

Jesus said in Rev 3:20

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me." (NKJ)

R Righteousness

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Job 8:6-7

6 If you were pure and upright, surely now He would awake for you, and prosper your rightful dwelling place. 7 Though your beginning was small, yet your latter end would increase abundantly. (NKJ)

THE FOLLOWING PROMISES OF PROSPERITY APPLY TO THE RIGHTEOUS: -
PROFITABLE FOR ALL THINGS

1Tim 4:8

8 For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. (NKJ)

ANSWERED PRAYER

1Pet 3:10-13

10 For "He who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit. 11 Let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil." 13 And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? (NKJ)

NOT FORSAKEN

Ps 37:25

I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread. (NKJ)

NO FAMINE

Prov 10:3

The LORD will not allow the righteous soul to famish, but He casts away the desire of the wicked. (NKJ)

BLESSINGS

Ps 5:12

For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; with favor You will surround him as with a shield. (NKJ)

FLOURISH LIKE FOLIAGE

Prov 11:28

He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like foliage. (NKJ)

NOTE: Righteousness will lead to national prosperity.

Prov 14:34

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. (NKJ)

Righteousness refers to conformity to God's moral character in order to be in right-standing with him. We are to conform to God's moral attributes. This conformity is not possible by law or human endeavor but by faith alone.

2Cor 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (NKJ)

2Cor 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (NKJ)

God plants His nature in us. The Holy Spirit enables the individual to develop these attributes.

Phil 2:13

for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. (NKJ)

The following are God's moral attributes to which we are to conform to in order to be righteous: -

HOLINESS

1Pet 1:16

... "Be holy, for I am holy." (NKJ)

FAITHFULNESS

Rev 2:10

"...Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." (NKJ)

WISDOM

Prov 4:5

Get wisdom! (NKJ)

James 1:5

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. (NKJ)

TRUTH

Eph 4:25

Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,"
(NKJ)

LOVE

John 13:34

"... that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another."
(NKJ)

AMPLIFICATION

HOLINESS

This is the sinless perfection of God. Holiness on our part refers to separation from the world, flesh and satan.

Dan 1:8

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. (NKJ)

Daniel, Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego separated themselves from the Babylonian culture of idolatry. The result is seen in the following verses.

Dan 1:15; 17-20

15 And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies...17 As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. 18 Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. 19 Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king. 20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm. (NKJ)

FAITHFULNESS

Synonyms: trustworthiness/reliability

EXAMPLES: -

JOSEPH

Potiphar committed everything to Joseph. Joseph was faithful in His stewardship. For his refusal to have an affair with His master's wife, he was falsely accused and imprisoned. In due course God blessed him for His faithfulness. He ruled in the midst of his enemies.

Gen 41:38-43

38 And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?" 39 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you. 40 "You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you." 41 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt." 42 Then Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph's hand; and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. 43 And he had him ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried out before him, "Bow the knee!" So he set him over all the land of Egypt. (NKJ)

Joseph was faithful in "What was another man's ".

Prov 28:20

A faithful man will abound with blessings, but he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished. (NKJ)

Ps 31:23

Oh, love the LORD, all you His saints! For the LORD preserves the faithful, and fully repays the proud person. (NKJ)

Luke 16:10-12

10 "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. 11 "Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? 12 "And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own? (NKJ)

Being faithful to that which is least and what is another man's are stepping stones to prosperity.

DANIEL

Daniel was faithful.

Dan. 6:4, 28

WISDOM

Prov 3:13-18

13 Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding; 14 For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, and her gain than fine gold. 15 She is more precious than rubies, and all the things you may desire cannot compare with her. 16 Length of days is in her right hand, in her left hand riches and honor. 17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. 18 She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who retain her. (NKJ)

James 3:17

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. (NKJ)

Prov 4:5-8

5 Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. 6 Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; love her, and she will keep you. 7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding. 8 Exalt her, and she will promote you; she will bring you honor, when you embrace her. (NKJ)

Solomon's wisdom came from God. He prospered because of this wisdom. (See 1Kin.3:7-14).

Prov 9:10

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom..." (NKJ)

TRUTH

1 king 2:4

"that the LORD may fulfill His word which He spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,' He said, 'you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'" (NKJ)

1 king 3:6

6 And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. (NKJ)

Because of David's truthfulness God blessed Him with a son to take over his kingdom. His wealth was not squandered by strangers.

LOVE

Love is the fulfillment of the Law (Rom.13: 10). We are commanded to love God and one another (1Jhn. 4:21). Because we truly love, we will not kill, steal, commit adultery, etc,. This is how the law is fulfilled.

Ps 145:20

20 The LORD preserves all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy. (NKJ)

Those who love God will live to enjoy their wealth.

EXAMPLES: -

(A) LOVE IN PARENTAL HONOUR

Eph 6:1-3

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: 3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." (NKJ)

Love motivates parental honour.

If you tithe, enjoy God's word, praise, evangelise, etc., but do not honour your parents, it will not be well with you. Your love is not truly the God kind of Love (agape Love) i.e. you are not conforming to His love.

LOVE IN FORGIVENESS

Love does not keep a record of wrongs. (1Cor. 13: 5 says the following about love - It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.) (NIV)

Love motivates one to forgive unconditionally. Don't let an unforgiving spirit hinder your right-standing with God and rob you of your prosperity. Make a resolution to forgive unconditionally those who have hurt you right Now. Note the following scripture - 1 Cor. 13:3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. (NIV)

1Tim 4:8

... but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. (NKJ)

Godliness = Devotion to God/Godward attitude. It is manifested in actions that please God.

Godliness produces righteousness.

Sport is profitable for some things.

Hobbies are profitable for some things.

Music is profitable for some things.

Having a career is profitable for some things.

BUT

Godliness is profitable for all things. You don't have to be a "crook" to become prosperous.

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Josh 1:8

"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success." (NKJ)

Job 36:11

If they obey and serve Him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures.(NKJ)

Deut 29:9

"Therefore keep the words of this covenant, and do them, that you may prosper in all that you do." (NKJ)

BLESSINGS FOR OBEDIENCE

Deut 28:2-6

2 "And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God: 3 Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country. 4 Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. 5 Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. 6 Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out." (NKJ)

Deut 28:11-13

11 "And the LORD will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you. 12 The LORD will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. 13 And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them." (NKJ)

EXAMPLE: -

Abraham obeyed God in leaving Haran (Gen. 12:1,14a).

We see his prosperity in Gen. 13:2.

Gen 13:2

2 Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. (NKJ)

Abraham obeyed God in sacrificing Isaac (Gen. 22:22-23).

He was blessed as seen in the following scriptures:-

Gen 22:16-18

16 and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son. 17 blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."(NKJ)

CHARACTER OF OBEDIENCE FOR PROSPERITY

WILLING OBEDIENCE

Isa 1:19-20

19 If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land; 20 but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword." For the mouth of the LORD has spoken. (NIV)

1. Isaiah was willing and obedient - Isa 6:8... And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" (NIV)

The people were willing and obedient to dwell in Jerusalem - Neh 11:2 "And the people blessed all the men who willingly offered themselves..."(NKJ)

3. Rebekah was willing and obedient to be the bride of Isaac - Gen 24:58 ...And she said, "I will go." (NKJ)

4. Jesus was willing and obedient (Ps. 4:7-8; Heb. 10:9-10; Phil.2: 5-8). The result of His attitude is seen in Phil 2:9

9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, (NKJ).

Many people serve God out of fear or pressure from others. They are obedient but not willing. God promises that if you are willing and OBEDIENT you will have the best of the land.

ON THE OTHER HAND DISOBEDIENCE/REBELLION LEADS TO POVERTY: -

1. The household of Eli rebelled against God.

1 Sam 2:29

29 'Why do you kick at My sacrifice and My offering which I have commanded in My dwelling place, and honor your sons more than Me, to make yourselves fat with the best of all the offerings of Israel My people?' (NKJ)

They inherited a curse of poverty.

1 Sam 2:36

36 'And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left in your house will come and bow down to him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and say, "Please, put me in one of the priestly positions, that I may eat a piece of bread." '(NKJ)

2. Deut 28:15-18

15 "But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: 16 Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the country. 17 Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. 18 Cursed shall be the fruit of your body and the produce of your land,

the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks." (NKJ)

Prov 13:18

18 Poverty and shame will come to him who disdains correction, but he who regards a rebuke will be honored. (NKJ)

Ezek 4:16-17

16 Moreover He said to me, "Son of man, surely I will cut off the supply of bread in Jerusalem; they shall eat bread by weight and with anxiety, and shall drink water by measure and with dread, 17 that they may lack bread and water, and be dismayed with one another, and waste away because of their iniquity." (NKJ)

Ezek 6:11-12

11 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Pound your fists and stamp your feet, and say, 'Alas, for all the evil abominations of the house of Israel! For they shall fall by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence. 12 'He who is far off shall die by the pestilence, he who is near shall fall by the sword, and he who remains and is besieged shall die by the famine. Thus will I spend My fury upon them. (NKJ)

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This is Biblical giving.

Paul encouraged the Ephesian Church to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' (Acts 20:35) (NKJ)

ILLUSTRATION

The sheep that does not give up her wool is slowed down by the weight of the wool. Soon she lags behind the rest of the flock becoming an easy prey for wolves. The wool grows over her mouth interfering with her ability to feed. The sheep looks over weight but is actually emaciated. In addition the wool grows over her eyes blinding her, so that she goes astray easily. The wool grows over the ears, so she cannot hear the shepherd. From this it can be seen that it is better for the sheep to give up her wool.

Gal 6:7

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.
(NKJ)

Prov 11:25

25 The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.

(NKJ)

Prov 22:9

9 He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor.

(NKJ)

2 Cor 9:6-15

6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. 9 As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." 10 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, 11 while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. 12 For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, 13 while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men, 14 and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you. 15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! (NKJ)

YOUR MONEY IS COMPARED TO SEED THAT IS SOWN.

REAPING DEPENDS ON: -

- (1) THE QUANTITY SOWN - THE MORE YOU SOW THE MORE YOU REAP.
- (2) ATTITUDE IN SOWING - YOU MUST GIVE HILARIOUSLY.

THE BENEFITS OF SOWING: -

REAPING OCCURS ALWAYS - "always". (vs 8)

ALL GRACE WILL ABOUND TO YOU. (vs.8)

ALL SUFFICIENCY - YOUR NEEDS WILL BE MET.(vs.8)

YOU WILL HAVE AN ABUNDANCE FOR EVERY GOOD WORK.(vs.8)

THERE WILL BE AN INCREASE IN YOUR FRUITS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
(character building). (vs.10)

MULTIPLICATION OF THE SEED SOWN SO THAT YOU WILL HAVE MORE
BREAD AND MORE SEED TO SOW. (vs. 10)

ENRICHMENT (vs. 11).

BLESSES OTHERS (vs.12).

OTHERS WILL THANK GOD FOR YOU(vs.12).

GLORIFIES GOD(vs.13).

OTHERS WILL PRAY FOR YOU (vs. 14).

YOUR MONEY IS YOUR SEED. DO NOT EAT YOUR SEED. YOU WILL HAVE NO HARVEST.

SOWING INCLUDES: -

TITHING

The tithe is the Lord's.

Lev 27:30

30 'And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's. It is holy to the LORD. (NKJ)

(1.1) TITHING EXISTED BEFORE THE LAW (ABRAHAMIC COVENANT)

Abraham rendered tithes to Melchisedec (Heb 7:1-4).

(1.2) TITHING EXISTED DURING THE LAW (MOSAIC COVENANT)

Mal 3:10

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. (NKJ)

TITHING EXISTS AFTER THE LAW (NEW COVENANT)

PAUL TAUGHT TITHING

1 Cor 9:9-14

9 For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it oxen God is concerned about? 10 Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. 11 If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? 12 If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ. 13 Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar? 14 Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel. (NKJ)

Paul used the Old Testament principle of support of the Levitical priesthood from Israel's tithes to justify the support of the ministers in the Church.

MELCHISEDEC ARGUMENT (Heb. 7)

Abraham rendered tithes to King-Priest Melchisedec (v2).

In rendering tithes to Melchisedec Abraham acknowledged his greatness (v4), and was blessed by him (v6,7).

In tithing Abraham established a pattern for his unborn seed (natural and spiritual) to acknowledge greatness of the Melchisedec priesthood and receive blessings from that

priesthood.

Israel (the natural seed of Abraham followed the pattern in tithing to the Levitical priesthood - "less" to the "better" (v7).

The Church (spiritual seed of Abraham - Gal. 3:7) must also follow the pattern. The Levitical priesthood has now been replaced by the Melchisedec priesthood, which is a greater priesthood and an eternal priesthood.

Christ is a Priest after the order of Melchisedec.

Heb 6:20

20 where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. (NKJ)

Therefore tithes must be rendered to Him.

Jesus is the seed of Abraham.

Heb 2:16

16 For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. (NKJ)

But this applies to the "days of His flesh".

Heb 5:7

7 who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear. (NKJ)

As the Son of God He is before Abraham.

John 8:58

58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." (NKJ)

He is therefore qualified to receive tithes.

When we tithe - like Abraham we acknowledge the greatness of Christ and we will be blessed by Him.

Note: For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Rom. 15:4 (NKJ)

JESUS SANCTIONED TITHING

Matt 23:23

23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. (NKJ)

If during the law the people gave 10%, we under grace ought to give more. God challenges us "prove me now herewith".

Mal 3:10-11

... and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. 11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. (KJV)

Our righteousness must exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees in giving.

Matt 5:20

20 "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. (NKJ)

Prov 3:9-10

9 Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase;
10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine. (NKJ)

Tithing is an important part of your giving. The tithe is given to the "storehouse" i.e. the local Church. It is returning to God what was entrusted to you by God. In doing this you are displaying faithfulness in "what is another man's". (Lk. 16:12)

(2) OFFERING

Ps 96:8

8 Give to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts. (NKJ)

This is giving to God after you have tithed. Israel gave offerings after tithing e.g. freewill offerings (Deut. 16:10; Ex. 36:1-7), burnt offerings (Lev. 1:1-3). If a person tithes but gives no offering, he gives nothing to God.

In the celebration of the Hebrew feasts every Israelite had to come before God with an offering.

Exod 23:15

"... none shall appear before Me empty;". (NKJ)

SCATTERING

This is giving to others.

Prov 11:24

There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. (NKJ)

Ecccl 11:1-2

1 Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days. 2 Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, for you do not know what evil will be on the earth. (NKJ)

God promises to return your giving with "divine" interest.

Luke 6:38

38 "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." (NKJ)

EXAMPLES

GIVING TO THE POOR

Prov 28:27

He who gives to the poor will not lack, but he who hides his eyes will have many curses.

(NKJ)

Prov 19:17

He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, and He will pay back what he has given.

(NKJ)

Prov 14:21

He who despises his neighbor sins; but he who has mercy on the poor, happy is he.

(NKJ)

GIVING TO THE OPPRESSED AND HUNGRY

Isa 58:9-11

9 Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.' "If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, 10 If you extend your soul to the hungry and satisfy the afflicted soul, then your light shall dawn in the darkness, and your darkness shall be as the noonday. 11 The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, and strengthen your bones; you shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail. (NKJ)

CAUTION

The principal reason for giving is because God gave.

Giving as a means of getting without embracing the other principles of prosperity is a false balance.

Prov 11:1

1. A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight. (KJV)

STINGINESS LEADS TO POVERTY

Prov 28:22

22 A stingy man is eager to get rich and is unaware that poverty awaits him. (NIV)

Prov 11:24

24 There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. (NKJ)

P Prioritising the Kingdom

P PRESENCE OF GOD
R RIGHTEOUSNESS
O OBEDIENCE
S SOWING
P PRIORITIZING THE KINGDOM OF GOD
E ENJOY THE WORD OF GOD
R RESPECT THE SERVANTS OF GOD
I INDUSTRY
T TRUSTING GOD (FAITH)
Y YIELDING TO THE SPIRIT

Matt 6:33

33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (NKJ)

Heb. 11:6b

"... and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." (NKJ)

Kingdom = domain of the king. Establish God's rule over every area of your life - i.e. seek God first in everything.

EXAMPLES: -

(A) King Jehoshaphat

2 Chr 17:1-10

1. Then Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place, and strengthened himself against Israel.
2 And he placed troops in all the fortified cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah and in the cities of Ephraim which Asa his father had taken. 3 Now the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the former ways of his father David; he did not seek the Baals, 4 but sought the God of his father, and walked in His commandments and not according to the acts of Israel. 5 Therefore the LORD established the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah gave presents to Jehoshaphat, and he had riches and honor in abundance. 6 And his heart took delight in the ways of the LORD; moreover he removed the high places and wooden images from Judah. 7 Also in the third year of his reign he sent his leaders, Ben-Hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Michaiiah, to teach in the cities of Judah. 8 And with them he sent Levites: Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and Tobadonijah-- the Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, the priests. 9 So they taught in Judah, and had the Book of the Law of the LORD with them; they went throughout all the cities of Judah and taught the people. 10 And the fear of the LORD fell on all the kingdoms of the lands that were around Judah, so that they did not make war against Jehoshaphat. (NKJ)

- He (1) Strengthened himself against Israel (v1).
(2) He walked in the former ways of David (v3).
(3) He sought God (v4).

The result is seen in verse 5: -

- (1) His kingdom was established.
(2) He prospered materially.

He continued to prioritize God in his life: -

His heart was lifted up to the Lord (v6).
He destroyed the high places of Judah (v6).
He appointed teachers to teach in Judah (v7,9).

This kingdom prioritization had a multitude of benefits: -

2 Chr 17:11-13

11 Also some of the Philistines brought Jehoshaphat presents and silver as tribute; and the Arabians brought him flocks, seven thousand seven hundred rams and seven thousand seven hundred male goats. 12 So Jehoshaphat became increasingly powerful, and he built fortresses and storage cities in Judah. 13 He had much property in the cities of Judah; and the men of war, mighty men of valor, were in Jerusalem. (NKJ)

(B) King Uzziah

2 Chr 26:5

5 He sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God; and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him prosper. (NKJ)

Seek God first in everything. Give Him first place in your home, work, social life, your local Church etc. By this way you are prioritising His kingdom in your life.

God disclosed the following to the nation of Israel.

Hag 1:5-6

5 Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: "Consider your ways! 6 "You have sown much, and bring in little; you eat, but do not have enough; you drink, but you are not filled with drink; you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; and he who earns wages, Earns wages to put into a bag with holes." (NKJ)

God revealed the reason for their lack in the following scripture: -

Hag 1:4

4 "Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?" (NKJ)

The nation had failed to take care of the house of God. They were too busy building their own houses. There are many Christians who no longer go to or are committed to a local Church. They are preoccupied with their own homes, families and jobs etc. They

will inevitably experience Hag 1:5-6

5 Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: "Consider your ways! 6 "You have sown much, and bring in little; you eat, but do not have enough; you drink, but you are not filled with drink; you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; and he who earns wages, Earns wages to put into a bag with holes." (NKJ)

VANITY/ PRIDE/ SELF-CENTEREDNESS HINDERS PROSPERITY: -

Prov 16:18

18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. (NKJ)

Prov 29:23

23 A man's pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor. (NKJ)

E Enjoying the Word of God

P PRESENCE OF GOD

R RIGHTEOUSNESS

O OBEDIENCE

S SOWING

P PRIORITIZING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

E ENJOY THE WORD OF GOD

R RESPECT THE SERVANTS OF GOD

I INDUSTRY

T TRUSTING GOD (FAITH)

Y YIELDING TO THE SPIRIT

Ps 1:2-3

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.

3 He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper. (NKJ)

Some people enjoy their careers, music, sport, etc., more than the word of God. Those who despise or ignore the word of God will never experience the four-fold prosperity of God.

We should have the attitude of Jeremiah - Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart... .Jer 15:16 (NKJ)

Prov 4:20-22

20 My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. 21 Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; 22 For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh." (NKJ)

Ps 112:1-3

1 Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who delights greatly in His commandments. 2 His descendants will be mighty on earth; the generation of the upright will be blessed. 3 Wealth and riches will be in his house, and his righteousness

endures forever. (NKJ)

R Respecting the servants of God

P PRESENCE OF GOD

R RIGHTEOUSNESS

O OBEDIENCE

S SOWING

P PRIORITIZING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

E ENJOY THE WORD OF GOD

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I INDUSTRY

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Y YIELDING TO THE SPIRIT

2 Chr 20:20

20 So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper." (NKJ)

Matt 10:41

41 "He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. (NKJ)

We must respect the OFFICE that a servant of God occupies. Paul said, "...speak evil of no one..." (Titus 3:2).

Even though: -

Saul was demonized (1 Sam. 16:14).

Saul cast javelins at David (1 Sam. 18:11; 19:10).

Saul sent assassins to kill David (1 Sam. 19:11).

Saul slew the 85 priests who assisted David (1 Sam. 21:18-19).

Saul attempted to attack David and his army (1 Sam. 23:8; 26:2).

Saul was instrumental in David's separation from his wife ((1 Sam. 19:11).

David did not speak evil of Saul. God delivered Saul into David's hand but David spared him.

1 Sam 24:10

10 "Look, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD delivered you today into my hand in the cave, and someone urged me to kill you. But my eye spared you, and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD'S anointed.' " (NKJ)

David mourned over Saul's death (2 Sam. 1:11-12).

David respected Saul's office as the "Lord's Anointed" and was blessed during his reign.

I Industry

P PRESENCE OF GOD
R RIGHTEOUSNESS
O OBEDIENCE
S SOWING
P PRIORITIZING THE KINGDOM OF GOD
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Y YIELDING TO THE SPIRIT

Determine what God has called and equipped you to do. Then work diligently at it.

Prov 13:4

4 The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich. (NKJ)

Prov 10:4

4 He who has a slack hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. (NKJ)

Prov 12:11

11 He who works his land will have abundant food, but he who chases fantasies lacks judgment. (NIV)

Determine what your land is.

Stop chasing fantasies and establish what God has called and equipped you to do. Many people are working hard in careers that have not even been purposed for them by God. They have acquired wealth but never lived to enjoy it, or were too sick to enjoy the fruits of their labour.

Acquire your wealth honestly.

Prov 13:11

Wealth gained by dishonesty will be diminished, but he who gathers by labor will increase. (NKJ)

Jer 17:11

Like a partridge that hatches eggs it did not lay is the man who gains riches by unjust means. When his life is half gone, they will desert him, and in the end he will prove to be a fool. (NIV)

The man who gains riches by unjust means is compared to a bird that hatches someone else's eggs.

The following lesson may be inferred from the above comparison: -

The partridge sits on someone else's eggs for many weeks. When the eggs hatch she labours in feeding the nestlings. Eventually she discovers that her "offspring" do not look like her and she has to give them all up. Similarly the person who gains riches by unjust means. One day he will have to give all up.

LAZINESS HINDERS PROSPERITY: -

Prov 10:4

4 He who has a slack hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. (NKJ)

Prov 6:10-11

10 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep-- 11 So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, and your need like an armed man. (NKJ)

Prov 20:13

13 Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with bread. (NKJ)

Prov 23:21

21 For the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty. (NKJ)

Prov 20:4

4 The lazy man will not plow because of winter; he will beg during harvest and have nothing.
(NKJ)

Prov 19:15

15 Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger. (NKJ)

OVER INDULGENCE HINDERS PROSPERITY: -

Prov 23:21

21 For the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and drowsiness will clothe a man with rags. (NKJ)

Prov 21:17

17 He who loves pleasure will be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not be rich.
(NKJ)

EXAMPLE: -

THE PRODIGAL SON.

Luke 15:13

13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. (NIV)

The younger son left his father's house and squandered his inheritance with over indulgence. His over indulgence led to poverty.

Luke 15:14

14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. (NIV)

T Trusting God (faith)
P PRESENCE OF GOD
R RIGHTEOUSNESS
O OBEDIENCE
S SOWING
P PRIORITIZING THE KINGDOM OF GOD
E ENJOY THE WORD OF GOD
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Y YIELDING TO THE SPIRIT

Jer 17:7

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD. (NKJ)

Ps 31:19

Oh, how great is Your goodness, which You have laid up for those who fear You, which You have prepared for those who trust in You in the presence of the sons of men! (NKJ)

Trusting God = faith.

Faith pleases God: -

Heb. 11:6a

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him,..." (NKJ)

Faith invites God's favour upon one's life. One needs to know with certainty that God is the source of prosperity (Deut. 8:18).

Your career is not your source.

Your wealthy friends are not your source.

Your casinos are not your source.

Your bank accounts, investment portfolios and assets are not your source.

None of the above is EL SHADDAI (All Sufficient One).

That name belongs to God alone. You can approach EL SHADDAI only through the name of Jesus (Jhn. 14:6).

Ps 20:7

Some trust in chariots and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the LORD our God. (NKJ)

Job trusted God in his poverty.

Job 19:25-26

25 For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; 26 And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God. (NKJ)

He did not accuse God falsely.

Job 1:22

In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong. (NKJ)

God blessed him.

Job 42:12

12 Now the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys. (NKJ)

Y Yielding to the Spirit

P PRESENCE OF GOD

R RIGHTEOUSNESS

O OBEDIENCE

S SOWING

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T TRUSTING GOD (FAITH)

Y YIELDING TO THE SPIRIT

Yielding to the Spirit is unrestrained control and leading by the Spirit of God.

Rom 8:14

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (NKJ)

Eph 5:18

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit. (NKJ)

1 Cor 2:12

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. (NKJ)

Abundant life is "prosperous life". The Spirit reveals that this is freely given to us (1Cor. 2:12). As you yield to the Spirit you will be protected from the thief (Satan).

John 10:10

10 "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." (NKJ)

MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

He leads into all truth (Jhn. 16:13).

He protects (Is. 59:19).

He intercedes (Rom. 8:26-27).

He teaches (Jhn. 14:26).

He reveals things to come (Jhn. 16:13).

To be filled with the Holy Spirit is the same as being controlled by the Holy Spirit. The anointing is symbolic reference to being covered, filled or controlled by the Holy Spirit.

Num 18:8

And the LORD spake unto Aaron, Behold, I also have given thee the charge of mine heave offerings of all the hallowed things of the children of Israel; unto thee have I given them by reason of the anointing, and to thy sons, by an ordinance for ever. (KJV)

Prosperity was conferred upon Aaron and his sons because of the anointing.

FINAL NOTE

The Bible states - "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" (Mk. 8:36) (NKJ)

True prosperity is centered on Jesus. He promises abundant life which encompasses all four aspects of prosperity (Jhn. 10:10) 2Cor. 8:9 states For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. (NKJ)

1. You may be materially rich but have no friends - that is not prosperity.

Prov 16:7

When a man's ways please the LORD, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him. (NKJ)

Only God can do that for you.

2. You may be materially rich but you have never experienced God's wonderful presence burning in your life. This can change now as you draw closer to Him , for He said:-

John 7:38

"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." (NKJ)

John 14:21

"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." (NKJ)

3. You may be materially rich but you have never had rest and peace - you don't sleep well.

Ps 127:2

It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows; for so He gives His beloved sleep. (NKJ)

Prov 10:22

The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.. (NKJ)

Jesus said in Matt. 11:28 "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (NKJ)

God can give you peace and rest right now for Is. 53:5 says, But He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. (NKJ)

The price has already been paid.

4. You may be materially rich but you are constantly sick.

His word says Matt. 8:17 the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses." (NKJ)

Recurrent illnesses could mean that the Devil is stealing from you. The Devil's purpose is to steal, kill, and destroy - Jhn. 10:10a, but 1 Jhn. 3:8 says, from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. (NKJ)